

**Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes, February 14, 2008, (Approved, 2/28/08)**

**Selectmen's Room, Concord Town House**

Members present: Harry Beyer, Gerry Boyle, Elissa Brown, Jim Coutre, Dinny McIntyre, Ken Miller, Andrea Siani

Members absent: Barbara Pike, Jim Terry

Others present: Marcia Rasmussen, Fred Lindgren, and a number of citizens

Recorder: Harry Beyer, clerk pro-tem

**Materials distributed:**

"Draft ver. 1" minutes of Public Meeting, BFRT 25% Design Presentation by VHB, Feb.. 12, 2008, Harvey Wheeler Center (Jim C);

Outline of issue raised at the Feb 12 Pubic Meeting and in subsequent emails (Elissa); and Trail Clearing table (Jim C) Comments from two citizens.

Revised Minutes of Feb. 7, 2008 meeting were **APPROVED** (6 yea; Ken abstained because he was not at the Feb. 7 meeting.)

**Committee members discussed briefly:**

Coordination with the West Concord Village Overlay Study;

Missing pages in the VHB 25% Design Report (Marcia says VHB has promised to supply them);

Representative nature of Trail Cross Sections on sheet 3 of VHB 25% design plans; and

Issues related to the Feb. 12 public meeting, including the desirability of allowing time for more specific explanations and how questions raised by citizens might be answered.

Marcia discussed what Town officials know about the MBTA's plans for improving the rail line through Concord. We do not know which of the three "Build Alternatives" will be pursued. The construction of High Level Platforms are constructed at the West Concord station (Alt. 3) would imply or necessitate the construction of an elevated pedestrian cross-over. Dinny said she misspoke at a BoS meeting when she indicated that a new Powder Mill Road culvert would be designed.

**The committee then discussed each issue on Elissa's outline, and decided upon the following ACTIONS:**

- Greater definition of unpaved surface: The committee **VOTED** (6 yea, 1 nay) to direct **VHB** to indicate in the design that the trail surface from the Assabet River to the Sudbury town line will be stabilized stone similar to that on the Upper Charles River Greenway.
- Handicapped parking at Williams Road: The **committee** will investigate further before making a decision.
- Surface of new parking lot at West Concord station: The committee will direct **VHB** to pave the surface and include some distinct feature (such as colored paving) to distinguish it from the MBTA parking lot.
- West Concord Station Crossing: **Marcia** will have Town staff investigate the possibility of routing the trail behind the West Concord Super Market.
- Assabet Bridge aesthetics: The committee will direct **VHB** to revise the design, making it more like bridges shown in the Fay, Spotford & Thorndike "Engineering Assessment Report" (Aug. 2005), while retaining vandal-resistant qualities. Also, VHB is directed

to include a cost estimate for both the redesigned bridge and for lead removal at all three bridges.

- Length of paved skirts at bridges and road crossings: The committee will ask **VHB** whether the length of the asphalt skirts might reasonably be reduced.
- Williams Road Emergency Access: The committee will direct **VHB** to delete the Emergency Access Gates and Gravel Drives, provided that emergency vehicles can access the trail via the existing access road to the nearby CMLP building.
- Powder Mill Road access: Recognizing that **VHB** is still designing this access, the committee desires an ADA compliant ramp with fewer switchbacks and gentler turns, preferably in the Northwest corner of this intersection.
- Rest Stops: The committee will direct **VHB** to add a small Rest Stop near Jennie Dugan Brook, and another Rest Stop near the Prison Cemetery, North of Commonwealth Ave. Both the cemetery and the trail in this area may be moved as part of the Rotary redesign, but having a Rest Stop on the plan will serve as a reminder to locate one in this general area.
- Rest Room: The committee will direct **VHB** to add an ADA compliant Rest Room North of the new Parking Lot on Sheet 2.
- Re-location of Trail Centerline: The committee will direct **VHB** to shift the centerline east, away from the homes on Derby Street, and to shift it west, away from the homes on Cottage Street, or explain to the committee why such shifts should not be made.
- Railings: The committee will direct **VHB** to replace the detail drawing of a Bicycle Railing (sheet 5) with a detail of a Split Rail Fence, provided that safety is not sacrificed.
- Bicycle Parking Rack: The committee will direct **VHB** to replace the Bicycle Parking Rack (sheet 6) with amore esthetically pleasing rack.
- Costs: The committee will direct **VHB** to make the following changes in the 25% Design Report:
  - Add an annotated list of funding sources;
  - Make the cost tables more reader-friendly;
  - Include lead removal costs in the tables;
  - Include the cost of replacing the Powder Mill Culvert (Since such replacement is not in the plan, this cost might be shown in a footnote to the cost tables.)
- Construction Zone: The committee will direct **VHB** to add to or expand the discussion of trail construction, emphasizing the importance of minimizing damage to the tree canopy, wildlife, and surrounding vegetation.
- Historic Artifacts: With respect to the rail sidings behind the foundry, the committee will direct **VHB** to indicate on the plans that the rails shall not be unnecessarily removed but shall be retained in place.
- Coordination: The committee shall direct **VHB** to emphasize the importance of close and continuing coordination with: MCI Concord, The MBTA, The MassHighway Rotary Project, the Town of Acton Playing Fields, the White Pond Advisory Committee, and The West Concord Village Overlay Study.

Because at least four committee members are unable to meet on Feb. 21, the committee's **next meeting** is postponed until Thursday, **Feb. 28**, (7:30 a.m., Selectmen's Room, Town House).

The **committee** will request that the White Pond Advisory Committee make a five minute presentation on its People Management Plan at the Feb. 28th meeting, after which the committee will discuss that plan.

**Citizen comments** were heard from Jane Coutre, Beth Holmes, Lydia Rogers, Dan Latham, Judy LaRocca, Jill Appel, Peter Doyle, Jane Cullinane, Julie Melbin, and Bill Gluck.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.